

**REMARKS**

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-8 are pending in this application, claims 6-8 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 2 is herein canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 is amended herein to more clearly recite the invention. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 4-129502 in view of *Yoshida et al.*, rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 4-129502 in view of *Yoshida et al.*, and further in view of *Dyke*, and rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 4-129502 in view of *Yoshida et al.*, and further in view of *Perez, II*. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

According to the Examiner, JP 4-129502 discloses a slide fastener, wherein a reinforcement member is bonded to a fastener tape along both outer sides of a fastener chain. While the Examiner admits that JP 4-129502 fails to disclose a thermal welding film used to bond the reinforcement member continuously with the fastener tape, the Examiner argues that *Yoshida et al.* discloses a slide fastener structure wherein a reinforcement member is bonded to a fastener tape at the end of both outer sides of a fastener chain and the bonding is accomplished by a bonding layer made of synthetic resin film having a low melting point. The Examiner then argues that it would be obvious to combine the references such that the *Yoshida et al.* bonding layer is used to secure the JP 4-129502 reinforcement member.

Neither JP 4-129502 nor *Yoshida et al.*, however, disclose, for example, a slide fastener wherein the reinforcement member contains a concave mounting groove at

least partially defined between an upper piece and a lower piece of the reinforcement member, wherein a concave groove for guiding a sewing thread is provided in a surface of the upper piece, wherein a rear face of the lower piece forms a bonding face to the fastener tape, and wherein the upper piece of the reinforcement member extends higher than a surface of the fastener elements attached to a center of the fastener chain, as recited in amended claim 1. Specifically, in JP 4-129502, the upper piece of the reinforcement member, which at least partially defines a concave mounting groove, at least does not have a concave groove for guiding a sewing thread, and the upper piece does not extend higher than the surface of the fastener elements. Instead, the surface of the upper piece is substantially flat and is entirely below the fastener elements. Moreover, the lower piece of the JP 4-129502 reinforcement member does not form a bonding face to the fastener tape. Instead, it is the upper piece that is contact with the fastener tape. Finally, neither, *Yoshida et al.*, *Dyke*, nor *Perez, II* cure these deficiencies. Therefore, claim 1, as well as dependent claims 3 and 4, are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

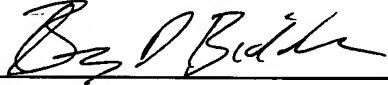
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Respectfully submitted,

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